GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6332
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2005
PRICE INDEX
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the commodities included for monitoring of Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index andthe year in which the last commodities included in these index;

(b) whether there has been a liquidation in the Whole Sale Price Index and Consumer Price Index in the last few months;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any decrease registered during each of the last six months till march, 2005;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to make changes in the method of calculating of Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM)

(a): A High Powered Price Monitoring Board (HPPMB) in the Cabinet Secretariat monitors the movement of wholesale and retail prices of selected essential commodities which include Rice, Wheat,Atta,Arhar,Gram, Tea, Milk, Sugar, Groundnut Oil, Mustard Oil, Vanaspati, Potato, Onion and Salt.All these items are included in the current Wholesale Price Index (WPi) (base: 1993-94=100) and the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) (base: 1982=100)

(b)& (c): The WPI series with base 1993-94 and CPI-IW series with base 1982 are still in vogue.

(d}& (e): Table showing the increase and decrease in terms of WPI and CPI is indicated below:

Table: Inflation (%)Over previous year in terms of WPI Inflation(%)overpreviousyearinterms ofCPl(IW)

Items	2004 Oct	2004 Nov	2004 Dec	2005 Jan	2005 Feb(p)	2005 Mar(p)	2004 Oct	2004 Nov	2004 Dec	2005 Jan	2005 Feb	2005 Mar
Rice	-1.5	-0.1	3.4	2.5	2.9	3.6	-1.1	0.4	0.9	1.3	1.4	NA
Wheat	3.7	1.9	0.3	-1.2	-1.6	-0.4	-1.2	-1.7	-3.0	-2.5	0.5	NA
Wheat (Atta)	2.1	1.2	-0.6	-1.9	-2.3	0.8	0.9	-1.0	-1.5	-0.9	2.3	NA
Arhar Dal	12.5	3.2	-0.7	-5.6	-6.6	-6.0	10.2	7.8	4.0	2.5	-0.7	NA
Gram Dal	-5.0	-5.1	4.0	-2.4	-2.1	-0.7	-2.5	-2.3	-2.0	-0.4	-0.7	NA
Tea- leaves	37.8	35.5	20.7	5.7	10.9	16.7	0.5	1.1	1.6	2.0	3.3	NA
Milk	4.0	4.4	3.9	4.1	2.8	-0.7	3.7	3.2	2.4	2.0	1.2	NA
Sugar	15.6	15.5	18.9	30.8	19.3	20.5	15.2	16.1	13.8	23.2	19.8	NA
Ground- nut Oil	4.3	10.9	3.3	-2.3	-5.0	-4.2	3.4	3.0	0.4	-1.9	-2.8	NA
Mustard Oil	-7.1	-9,0	-9.5	-11.2	-16.4	-14.6	-7.9	-9.4	-10.7	-9.1	-5.4	NA
Vanas- pati	5.1	3.3	2.2	0.8	-1.6	-2.6	4.9	3.9	1.8	-2.0	-5.1	NA
Potato	89.5	53.7	18.2	32.2	52.0	37.2	53.2	47.0	26.8	6.1	-14.1	NA
Onion	-18.8	-22.1	-30.6	-40.9	-42.6	-26.4	-16.9	-25.2	-30.7	-20.1	-9.6	NA
Salt	17.5	15.0	21.2	34.2	42.6	40.6	-0.1	0.7	0.5	0.9	-29.6	NA

P- provisional NA: Not Available

(f):For revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index, a working group has been setup under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) currently Member, Planning Commission. The working group is mandated to review the commodity coverage, base year, weighting,;diagram and related issues, particularly keeping in view the recommendation of the

National Statistical Commission. Similarly,Labour Bureau under the Ministry of Labour has start ed the process of updating the current series of CPI-IW with base: 1982 =100 to the new base with 2001 = 100.